



State of New Jersey

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF GRANT AWARD
Development of the National Violent Death Reporting System

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Policy and Research, Center for Health Statistics has been awarded a five-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This \$189,357 award will fund the creation of a New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System that will be included along with other selected states, in a National Violent Death Reporting System maintained by the CDC. New Jersey is one of only five states to receive this award.

The purpose of the National Violent Death Reporting System is to generate public health surveillance information at the national, state and local levels that is more detailed, useful and timely. This information will help develop, inform and evaluate violence prevention strategies at both the state and national levels.

The New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System will contain data on all violent deaths in New Jersey, beginning with 2003 events. Data will come from a variety of sources: death certificates; Medical Examiner data; Uniform Crime Reports and police ballistics data. The NJDHSS will link elements from these sources to create a unified database, following CDC guidelines and procedures.

The CHS will partner with the Violence Institute of New Jersey at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. They will work together on the creation of the data set and on the analysis of trends and spatial patterns in homicide and suicide. Katherine Hempstead, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Health Statistics, NJDHSS is the principal investigator for the grant. The CHS and the Violence Institute of New Jersey will be assisted by an advisory committee consisting of law enforcement, public health and other professionals. This project will provide an opportunity to link organizations across disciplines and organizations involved in violence prevention.